



MEDIA ALERT

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**STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES INFORMATIONAL
UPDATE MEETINGS FOR INTERCOUNTY CONNECTOR STUDY**

*Total Attendance Approaches 1,000 at Meetings in Silver Spring and Gaithersburg;
Next Meeting to be Held Thursday, June 24 in Laurel*

(June 22, 2004) – Following a large turnout of more than 1,000 citizens for the first two Informational Update Meetings for the Intercounty Connector (ICC) Study last week, the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA) is inviting citizens to attend the third and final meeting on Thursday, June 24 from 2-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post #60 in Laurel.

"We are pleased with the feedback we received at the first two meetings and encourage citizens to attend this week's meeting in Laurel," said SHA Administrator Neil J. Pedersen. "It is exciting to work together with such an informed and involved citizenry. Our goal is to provide a forum for public feedback and for one-on-one interaction between the project team and residents, business owners and commuters."

At the meetings, individuals are able to view details of preliminary studies on traffic, engineering and the environment. New information included at the meetings provides detailed mapping of the alternatives retained for detailed study, including specific information on individual residences and businesses. Those same maps can now be viewed from the comfort of home, office or library by logging onto www.iccstudy.org and following the links to the information presented at the June Informational Update Meetings. Comments can also be registered online. The web site also provides a Spanish version of all materials.

The June Informational Update Meetings are the last public meetings before the publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, due for publication later this year. This set of informational meetings is being held as an additional opportunity for feedback and are not required as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

"We are excited to be able to share the progress we've made so far on the ICC study. The streamlined study process is allowing us to make steady and timely progress," Pedersen said. "We encourage those who haven't yet attended one of the Informational Update meetings to attend Thursday's meeting, or visit our website to see information that has been updated since the November public workshops."

(More)

Page 2—ICC

The ICC Study team is committed to involving Maryland residents in the project through a comprehensive approach. Public involvement is crucial to the success of any transportation project; therefore, keeping the public informed and involved in the study is important.

The ICC Study is being conducted by the Maryland State Highway Administration, Maryland Transportation Authority and the Federal Highway Administration.

See below for the details of Thursday's Informational Update Meeting.

Laurel

Thursday, June 24, 2004

American Legion Post #60

2 Main St.

Laurel, MD

2:00 PM-8:30 PM

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